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SOME EXTRACTS

FROM THE

RECORDS OF THE ^{1st} FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST,

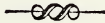
IN

EAST WINDSOR, CONN.

Taken in August, 1843.

With occasional Remarks; a List of Members;

CONFESSION OF FAITH AND COVENANT.



HARTFORD.

PRESS OF ELIHU GEER, 26½ STATE STREET.

MDCCCXLIII.

/:

D East Windsor, Conn. First church of
234625 Christ.
.25 Some extracts from the records of
the First church of Christ, in East
Windsor, Conn., taken in August, 1843.
With occasional remarks; a list of mem-
bers; confession of faith and covenant.
Hartford[Conn.]1843.

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EXTRACTS, & C.

THE first settlers of East Windsor came from Windsor, on the opposite of the river. Ancient Windsor contained within its bounds East Windsor and Ellington, on the East side of the river. Old Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield were settled about the same time by sundry families who came from Massachusetts, (about Watertown and Cambridge,) in quest of new settlements, in the year 1635 and 6.

Some of the first settlers of East Windsor, removed from the West to the East side of the river, about the year 1675. Among whom were *Nathaniel* and *Thomas Bissell*, *Capt. Thomas Stoughton*, *Israel Stoughton*, *John Porter*, *James Porter*, *Samuel Grant*, and *Capt. Joseph Fitch*.

The first inhabitants for many years attended public worship on the West side of the river, and belonged to the church and congregation there. But finding it inconvenient to cross the river, and being grown sufficiently numerous and able to support public worship among themselves, they proceeded to build a meeting-house, which stood near the north burying yard, and invited Mr. Timothy Edwards son of ——— Edwards, Esq., of Hartford, to preach to them, who was ordained in March, 1695. He studied under the Rev. Mr. Glover, of Springfield; and received the degrees of Bachelor and Master of Arts in one day at the College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which was an uncommon mark of respect paid to his extraordinary proficiency in learning. He married the daughter of the Rev. Solomon Stoddard, of North-



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ampton, Mass., who was a divine of eminence in his day. By her he had ten daughters and one son—the Rev. Jonathan Edwards, President of New Jersey College, whose writings rank him high among the first geniuses and divines of that or any other age.

The second meeting-house was built in 1709, near the north burying yard. The new meeting-house was built in 1761; and in 1804, ground was purchased near it for a burying place.

This church early adopted the Cambridge Platform of church government and worship, and the Westminster Confession of Faith; as the church in West Windsor, from which they originated, had also done; but has ever united in associations and ecclesiastical councils, with the neighboring churches, who are generally settled on what is called the Saybrook Platform.

East Windsor partook with the neighboring towns and churches in the great and general revival of religion through New England and America, in the years 1741 and 2. Some of the aged still among us (1791) date their conversion from that memorable period, and have maintained a Christian life to their old age. It began at Northampton under the ministry of the Rev. Jonathan Edwards.

Mr. Joseph Perry was settled at the age of 23, as colleague of the aged and venerable Edwards, who lived about three years afterwards. Mr. Perry was a native of Sherburne, Mass.—educated at Cambridge, and died at about the age of 50 years, distinguished for talents, learning and piety. The records of the church during the ministry of Messrs. Edwards and Perry are lost, as also, in great part during that of Mr. Whelpley. Watts' Psalms and Hymns are still in use in this church, and our seasons of communion are quarterly.

The practice of admitting persons into the church on what was called the half-way-covenant plan, continued

here until March 27, 1808, when it was quietly abolished. A relation of Christian experience was required of all candidates for full communion from an early period. Members of other churches coming to reside among us are allowed occasional communion at four successive sacramental seasons, after which they are required, in order to continue communing at our table, to bring a letter and unite with us in form. This church have repeatedly and solemnly adopted the Cambridge Platform and Westminster Confession, as the foundation, of their union in discipline and doctrine, because, in their view, most agreeable to the word of God.

From the year 1786 to 1827, a period of 41 years, (during the ministry of Dr. McClure and Mr. Robbins,) a record has been kept by them, in the church book, of all the deaths that have occurred within the bounds of this society, with the ages and diseases of the deceased, which gives decisive proof of the remarkable salubrity of the place.

MINISTERS.

REV. TIMOTHY EDWARDS, settled March, 1695, died Jan. 27, 1758
 JOSEPH PERRY, " April, 1755, " April 21, 1783
 DAVID McCLURE, D.D. " June, 1796, " June 25, 1820
 THOMAS ROBBINS, " May 3, 1809, dis'd Sept. 27, 1827
 SAMUEL W. WHELPLEY, " April 17, 1828 " Dec. 6, 1830
 CHAUNCEY G. LEE, " Aug. 8, 1832 " Mar. 30, 1836
 LEVI SMITH, " May 6, 1840.

The following persons are all that our records name as having filled the office of Deacon in this church, but the time in which they were appointed is specified only in three cases.

JOSEPH SKINNER.

MATHEW ROCKWELL.

DANIEL ROCKWELL.

BENONI OLCOTT.

AMASA LOOMIS.

THOMAS SADD.

AMASA LOOMIS, Jr. appointed Sept. 27, 1793.

ABNER REED, }
 DANIEL ROCKWELL, } appointed May 22, 1799.

ERASTUS ELLSWORTH, appointed April 4, 1834.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

Lemuel Bissell
 Charles Rockwell
 Sarah Rockwell
 Abner Reed
 Elizabeth W. Reed
 Deborah Cook
 John Bissell
 Miriam Cook
 Jerusha Wolcott
 Jesse Charlton
 Benjamin Cook

Alice Gillett
 Lucy Gillett
 Almira Wolcott
 Julius Birge
 Edwin Birge
 Mary Stoughton
 Sally Rockwell
 Abigail Rockwell
 Mary Allen, (deranged)
 Lucy Newberry
 Sarah Burnham

Harvey Elmer
 Epaphras Grant
 Lydia Grant
 Sally Bancroft
 Joseph Williams
 Naomi Williams
 Sally Birge
 Amelia Loomis
 Oliver Tudor
 Clarinda Goodwin
 Chloe Terry
 Mary Williams
 Horace Filley
 Ralph R. Rollo
 Lucy Ann Rollo
 Abigail Olcott
 Tirzah Filley
 Eveline Drake
 Almena Grant
 Eunice Pelton
 Nancy Anderson
 Abigail Cook
 Mary Cook
 Frances Cook
 Ann O. Verstillle
 Ann Grant
 Emeline Birge
 Laura Bowe
 Eli B. Haskell
 John Pelton
 Oliver M. Cook
 Aaron Williams
 Susan Haskell
 Abigail Tudor
 Jemima Rockwell
 Dimmis Bissell

Dimmis Bissell, Jr.
 Mary Cahoon
 Clarissa Williams
 Maria Bissell
 Lucy Strong
 Mary Gillett
 Increase Clapp
 Edward Hayden
 Polly Bower
 Phila Bissell
 Charles Willey
 Anna Willey
 Horace C. Gillett
 Harriett Tucker Hill
 Edward Haskell
 John S. Clapp
 Erastus Ellsworth
 Elizabeth Ellsworth
 Clarissa Elmer
 Caroline Willey
 Elijah Loomis
 Harriet Loomis
 Augustus Thompson
 Lucy Rockwell
 Mary Strong
 Delia Payne
 Elizabeth Baker
 Abby M. Rollo
 Sarah Clapp
 Sarah Ann Gillett
 Sarah Bliss
 Maria Bliss
 Allen Drake
 Margaret Drake
 John Allen
 Cynthia Allen

Julia Filley
 Eliakim M. Olcott
 Ann Olcott
 Eliza Ann Olcott
 Frances L. Olcott
 Julia Clapp

Lydia W. Smith
 Elam Pearl
 Lavina Pearl
 Ann E. Grant
 Mary P. McNall

CONFESSION OF FAITH

OF THE

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN EAST WINDSOR.

ARTICLE I. You believe there is only one living and true God; existing from Eternity, Self-existent, Independent, Infinite in wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. — *Deut. 6 : 4. Mark 12 : 29.*

ART. II. You believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and are the only rule of faith and practice. — *2d. Peter 1 : 21. 2d. Tim. 3 : 16.*

ART. III. You believe there are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and that these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory. — *Mat. 28 : 19. 2d. Cor. 13 : 14. 1st. John 5 : 7.*

ART. IV. You believe that by nature you are a child of wrath, and justly condemned by God's Holy Law. — *Eph. 2 : 3. Is. 48 : 8. 1st John 3 : 4.*

ART. V. You believe in the necessity of being born again to a holy and divine life, through faith in the blood

of Christ, and that this is the gift of God and the work of the Holy Spirit; and that those who are renewed by the Spirit of God, and kept by his Almighty power through faith unto salvation.—*John 3 : 3 — 6. John 1 : 13. 1st. Peter 1 : 5. John 10 : 27, 28.*

ART. VI. You believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for our offences, and rose for our justification, in the only Mediator between God and man; and you hope for salvation through his merits and mediation alone.—*1st Cor. 15 : 3. 1st Peter 2 : 24. 1st Tim. 2 : 5. Acts 4 : 12.*

ART. VII. You believe it to be your duty to give up yourself, or selves, to God in an everlasting covenant; and to wait on him in all the ways of his appointment to obtain the saving benefits of his grace.—*2d. Cor. 6 : 17, 18. Ps. 27 : 14. James 1 : 17.*

ART. VIII. You believe that Christ has a church in the world, and that this is a church of Christ; and that he hath appointed ordinances for worship and discipline in his church to be observed to the end of the world; that the sacraments of the New Testament are Baptism and the Lord's Supper; and are to be administered to visible saints, and that it is the privilege of believing parents to dedicate their children to God in Baptism.—*Eph. 1 : 22. Luke 22 : 19, 20. 1st. Cor. 11 : 24. Acts 6 : 15, 33. 1st. Cor. 1 : 16.:*

ART. IX. You believe in a future state, beyond the grave, the immortality of the soul, the resurrection of the body, and a general judgment at the last day by Jesus Christ, who will assign you and all mankind to an endless state of happiness or misery according to their works.—*2d. Cor. 5 : 10. Mat. 25 : 46.*

Thus you believe.

THE COVENANT.

You will now enter publicly into covenant with God and this church.

Deeply impressed with your sinfulness and unworthiness — your entire dependence on God, and your obligations to love and obey him — humbly hoping that you have been renewed by the Holy Spirit, — You do now, in the presence of God and these witnesses, solemnly avouch the Lord Jehovah, Father Son and Holy Ghost, to be your God. You acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ your only Saviour, and the Holy Spirit your sanctifier, comforter and guide.

Covenant with this Church.

You also covenant with this church — to walk in fellowship and communion with it — you engage to attend on the public worship of God and the ordinances of his house — habitually to discharge the secret and social duties of religion, to support church discipline according to the rules prescribed by Christ — to guard carefully in heart and life against every thing which will dishonor the cause of Christ, and to labor and pray for the promotion of his kingdom through the earth. You engage, in a particular manner, to seek the prosperity of this branch of his visible church — to submit to its discipline, and avoid whatever is prejudicial to its interests — and, with a spirit of meekness and love, to administer to its members such advice and reproof as duty may require.

Thus you covenant with God and this church ?

I do then, in the presence of God and these witnesses, and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, declare you a member [or members] of this church, entitled to its privileges and ordinances, communion and fellowship, watch and care.

[The members of the Church will rise.]

And now do we, the members of this church, cordially receive you to our fellowship and communion. We engage, on our part, by divine assistance, to manifest towards you the spirit of the Gospel — to watch over you in love, and should you fall into sin, to restore you in the spirit of meekness.

Beloved in the Lord, let it never be forgotten that you are in covenant with God and his people. Hereafter, the eyes of the world will be upon you — according as you live, the cause of Christ will be honored or dishonored. If you live worthy of your profession, religion will be honored, if not, it will be an occasion of grief and reproach. But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things which accompany salvation, though we thus speak. May the Lord guide and preserve you till death, and at last receive you and us to that blessed world, where our love and joy shall be forever perfect.

Amen.

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